

Federal fuel taxes are a major part of gasoline's cost. The Affordable Gas Price Act suspends the federal gasoline tax any time the average gas prices exceeds \$3.00 per gallon. During the suspension, the federal government will have a legal responsibility to ensure the federal highway trust fund remains funded. My bill also raises the amount of mileage reimbursement not subject to taxes, and, during times of high oil prices, provides the same mileage reimbursement benefit to charity and medical organizations as provided to businesses.

Misguided and outdated trade policies are also artificially raising the price of gas. For instance, even though Russia and Kazakhstan allow their citizens the right and opportunity to emigrate, they are still subject to Jackson-Vanik sanctions, even though Jackson-Vanik was a reaction to the Soviet Union's highly restrictive emigration policy. Eliminating Jackson-Vanik's threat of trade-restricting sanctions would increase the United States' access to oil supplies from non-Arab countries. Thus, my bill terminates the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to Russia and Khazaskin, allowing Americans to enjoy the benefits of free trade with these oil-producing nations.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Affordable Gas Price Act and end government policies that increase the cost of gasoline.

—
SERGIO ALFARO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sergio Alfaro for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sergio Alfaro is a 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sergio Alfaro is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sergio Alfaro for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

—
INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 813

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on several occasions when we begin a discussion about taking care of veterans, we sometimes bypass or overlook the veterans' survivors.

Today, I am introducing a bill to help our veterans' survivors.

Mr. Speaker, survivors often serve as the backbone of our veterans. In many instances while they are serving and giving selflessly to their nation, their loved ones are holding down the homefront for when they return.

However, I believe that current law short-changes our survivors.

This bill speaks directly to the appropriateness of our current regulations regarding Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) because it would shorten the time period for which a veteran must be rated continuously totally disabled immediately preceding his or her death before the veteran's survivors are eligible for these benefits from 10 years to 1 year.

DIC is a monetary payment made to survivors of our service-connected disabled veterans. Survivors deserve to be taken care of when their spouse who served and gave their all has died.

Given the current backlog in the VA's claims processing system, veterans wait years, even decades, to receive their final rating. In the case of totally disabled veterans, the resulting benefits may, unfortunately, come too late. These delays should not negate our responsibility to these veterans' families and this legislation would ensure that their survivors receive the benefits due to them.

Mr. Speaker, when we provide for and protect our veterans we must always remember to include their survivors. They cannot be an afterthought.

When I was the Chair of this Committee, I always remembered our veterans' survivors and made them a priority. I hope we continue that tradition in this Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

—
SALUTING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
CHESTER L. RICE

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) Chester L. Rice for his distinguished service to the U.S. Army and his nation.

LTC Rice honorably served his country for twenty-one years from 1955 to 1976.

Chester served as a member of my Service Academy Nominating Committee since 2009. He also served as a member of Congressman Weldon's Service Academy Nominating Committee from 1997 to 2008. I applaud his commitment to our youth, military and the future of our Armed Services.

On May 15, 2001, Chester was awarded the TROACC Award from the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Retired Officers Association for his leadership and dedicated work as Vice President and President of TROACC. Under his direction, the Chapter was twice selected as the TROA Chapter of the Year and the chapter magazine, the Intercom, was twice selected as the best in its category.

LTC Rice served as Chairman of the TROACC Student Affairs Committee and is credited for improvements to the program, which recognizes outstanding cadets from the Junior ROTC Programs in eleven Brevard

County High Schools and from the ROTC Panther Battalion at the Florida Institute of Technology. The excellent support that TROACC provided to these Junior and Senior ROTC programs is a direct result of the leadership and dedicated work of LTC Rice.

Born in Lawrenceville, Virginia on Nov. 28, 1933, he attended high school in Derry Township, Pennsylvania and was President of his high school class all four years. All his classmates loved him.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Chester is survived by his wife, Helen and brother, Donald Rice. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Harry Rice and Robert Rice, Jr. and his sister, Dolores Henderson. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

I am honored to rise and call attention to the service that Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) Chester L. Rice has provided our nation. I am proud to have known him and to see his commitment to the cause of liberty and freedom.

—
RUSLAN PSICHENKO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ruslan Pshichenko for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ruslan Pshichenko is a 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ruslan Pshichenko is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ruslan Pshichenko for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

—
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SARASOTA BALLET

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of The Sarasota Ballet.

Jean Weidner founded The Sarasota Ballet in 1987 as a presenting organization. Her dream of a full resident ballet company was realized in 1990 when The Sarasota Ballet became the first and only professional ballet company on the Gulf Coast of Florida.

Through the seasons, The Sarasota Ballet has become an exceptional company of artistic and talented dancers.